

To: House Human Services Committee

DT: 2-9-15

RE: HB 362 Healthy Public Buildings Act

Dear Chairman Wittich and members of the committee,

I am writing this letter to support HB 362.

As a school nurse employed in a Class AA high school I can attest to the importance of public buildings, such as schools which house approximately 1600 students, and 150 staff during the day and many visiting community members for extracurricular activities, being as healthy as possible for good outcomes.

If a building is dusty, poorly lighted, or has unknown mold growth due to dampness, the air quality will be affected and may cause illness for those students and staff who have known allergies and airway difficulties such as asthma.

Asthma in student population is very prevalent. According to data from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Asthma control program, there are 17,000 children in Montana estimated to have asthma.

Sensitivities to dust, mold, and poor ventilation in public buildings can be detected and mitigated for the health of all who work in or visit the building.

I support House Bill 362.

Thank you,
Julie Chaffee

School nurse, Helena School District